

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 /080 W

----- 074955

R 090712Z MAY 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3720

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 885

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH VN US

SUBJECT: PRC FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON U.S. AND INDOCHINA

REF: PEKING 844

1. FOUR SCANDINAVIAN AMBASSADORS MAY 7 HOSTED A RECEPTION AND DINNER FOR FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA AND OTHER MFA OFFICIALS TO COMMEMORATE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF JOINT ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. CHIAO WAS IN AN EXPANSIVE MOOD, DOWNED CONSIDERABLE FIERY CHINESE MAOTAI, AND COMMENTED QUITE POSITIVELY ON THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ROLE IN POST-INDOCHINA ASIA.

2. CHIAO BASICALLY FOLLOWED LINE SIMILAR TO THAT HE TOOK WITH BRITISH JOURNALIST DELEGATION (REFTEL, AGRUING THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA, FAR FROM BEING A DEBACLE FOR THE UNITED STATES, LIFTED A BURDEN FROM ITS BACK AND WOULD ENABLE IT TO PLAY A MORE POSITIVE ROLE ELSEWHERE. TAILORING HIS REMARKS FOR THE SCANDINAVIANS, CHIAO SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. COULD NOW CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS

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ON MORE IMPORTANT PLACES SUCH AS WESTERN EUROPE.

CHIAO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT U.S. WAS FREQUENTLY WELL INTENTIONED, BUT SAID THAT RESULTS SOMETIMES DID NOT ACCORD WITH INTENTIONS.

3. CHIAO CHARACTERIZED THE U.S. AS HAVING MADE A DETERMINED EFFORT IN INDOCHINA, BUT SAID IT WAS AN EFFORT DOOMED TO FAILURE. HE MADE REPEATED REFERENCES TO "OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS" AND "MY FRIEND HENRY KISSINGER" (WITH WHOM HE RECALLED HE HAD HELPED DRAFT SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE) IN DISCUSSING THE U.S. ROLE IN ASIA. SCANDINAVIANS UNANIMOUSLY COMMENTED THAT CH'IAO'S REMARKS WERE GENUINELY WARM AND NOT IN THE LEAST SARCASTIC. NEVERTHELESS WHERE THE U.S. SHOULD DRAW THE LINE IN ASIA, CHIAO WHEN SOMEONE ASKED TOWARD THE END OF THE EVENING/TO QUOTE ONE AMBASSADOR, TALKED AND TALKED WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING AND THEN FINALLY REPLIED, "MIDWAY ISLAND". AT THIS, HE LOOKED AT HIS WATCH AND EXCUSED HIMSELF.

4. ANOTHER LINE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ASIA APPEARS TO BE DEVELOPING HERE. ROMANIAN MINISTER-COUNSELOR DOROBANTU, WHO OFTEN APPEARS TO REFLECT CHINESE THINKING, OBSERVED TO USLO OFFICER THAT HE HAD REVIEWED THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE IN LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA AND THE KIM IL SUNG VISIT TO PEKING. HE SAID IT MADE FASCINATING READING IN CONTEXT OF THE U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM INDOCHINA AND PRC EMPHASIS ON PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF KOREA, BOTH OF WHICH WERE REFERRED TO IN THE COMMUNIQUE. DOROBANTU CONCLUDED THAT WHEN THE CHINESE REFER TO CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE THEY MAY BE THINKING MORE OF THE AREAS AROUND CHINA RATHER THAN OF THE TAIWAN QUESTION AT PRESENT. FINNISH COUNSELOR TOOK THE SAME LINE WITH MFA WEST EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL AT MAY 7 BANQUET FOR CHIAO. MFA OFFICIAL IMMEDIATELY AGREED AND STRONGLY EMPHASIZED THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN ASIA SHOULD BE ANALYZED WITH THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE IN MIND.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE RATHER TOUGH PRC PUBLIC STANCE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA, CHIAO OBVIOUSLY IS TRYING HARD TO CHARACTERIZE NEW SITUATION AS AN OPPORTUNITY RATHER
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THAN A SETBACK FOR THE U.S. WE DO NOT TAKE CHIAO'S REFERENCE TO MIDWAY ISLAND TOO SERIOUSLY SINCE PEKING HAS CLEARLY INDICATED THAT IT SUPPORTS A CLOSE U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP AND REALIZES THAT MAJOR HOSTILITIES ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA WOULD POSE SERIOUS DANGERS. WE SUSPECT THE QUESTION PUT HIM ON THE SPOT.
BUSH

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